

§ 307.735-302 Association with potential contractor prior to employment.

(a) No employee, or any person subject to his or her supervision, may participate in the decision to award a contract to an organization with which that employee has been associated in the past 2 years. When an employee becomes aware that such an organization is under consideration for or has applied for a contract with the Agency, the employee shall notify his or her immediate supervisor in writing. The supervisor shall take whatever steps are necessary to exclude the employee from all aspects of the decision processes regarding the contract or agreement.

(b) When the Director, Deputy Director, or an Associate Director becomes aware that an organization with which he or she has been associated in the past 2 years is under consideration for or has applied for a contract with the Agency, he or she shall refrain from participating in the decision process and immediately notify the Director of the Office of Compliance, who shall select an independent third party, not in any way connected or associated with the concerned official. The third party shall participate in and review the decision process to the extent he or she deems necessary to insure objectivity and the absence of favoritism. Said third party shall preferably be a person experienced in the area of government contracts. The third party shall file a report in writing with the Committee on Conflict of Interest stating his or her conclusions, observations, or objections, if any, to the decision process concerning the contract or agreement, which document shall be attached to and become a part of the official file.

§ 307.735-303 Association with Peace Corps contractor or potential contractor while an employee.

(a) No regular employee may be associated with any Peace Corps contractor or potential contractor. Any organization that is associated with a regular employee shall be suspended from consideration as a contractor.

(b) No regular or special employee, except in his or her official capacity as a Peace Corps employee, shall either

participate in any way on behalf of any organization in the preparation or development of a contract proposal involving Peace Corps or represent any other organization in a matter pending before Peace Corps. In the event that a regular or special employee participates while an employee of Peace Corps in any aspect of the development of a contract or agreement proposal on behalf of an organization, or represents another organization in a matter pending before Peace Corps, that organization shall be suspended from consideration for the contract or other agreement. If the employee's prohibited participation is discovered after award of the contract, appropriate disciplinary action shall be taken, including, but not limited to, the placement of a letter describing the violation in the employee's official personnel file.

(c) No regular or special employee who, prior to his or her employment at Peace Corps, participated in the development of a contract or other agreement proposal on behalf of another organization, shall participate as a Peace Corps employee in any aspect of the decision process regarding that contract or other agreement, or, if the contract or other agreement is awarded, in any oversight or management capacity in relation to that contract or other agreement. In addition, any such contract or other agreement shall only be awarded through a competitive process. In the event a regular or special employee who participated in the development of the contract or other agreement proposal prior to being employed at Peace Corps does participate as a Peace Corps employee in the decision process for such contract or other agreement, the organization shall be suspended from consideration.

(d) If a special employee participates as an employee of Peace Corps in any aspect of the development of a proposal, whether or not such participation is minimal or substantial, any organization with which he or she is associated shall be suspended from consideration for the contract or other agreement.

(e) If an organization with which a special employee is associated submits a proposal for a contract or other agreement, and the special employee